

1887

10 Southwell Gardens / 13all

29 Dec

My dear Gray

The kind thoughts of Mrs Gray anticipated us in sending Christmas Greetings - but I think it has been mainly the unusually rough & severe weather that has kept us mainly within doors & prevented us from procuring in good time the Christmas cards which are now the customary tokens of remembrance. But you well know that there is no danger of being forgotten in this house where we so often call to mind the pleasant hours we have both passed with you & dear Mrs Gray -

My little book has been out of my hands for some time but there was delay at last over the small map on which I have tried to lay down the isothermals for year & for January & July - It is

altogether a small affair but it  
supplies some suggestions for thought  
& hints for further enquiry & research  
it may not be useless - In looking  
it over I have repeatedly struck by  
the matters that I neglected to enquire  
into & which should not have been  
passed over even in a hurried journey  
I have for the last month been entirely  
neglecting my herbarium & have  
buried in calculations respecting  
balloon ascents & meteorological  
observations on mountains all  
all destined for a paper in the Philosophical  
Magazine - by which the moral is  
that our knowledge is still most imperfect  
that many conclusions that have been  
accepted are not justified by such  
facts as we possess & that we  
urgently require such information  
as might be supplied by properly  
conducted observations  
We have been paying tribute

to the season by much coughing  
but nothing serious - only hoarseness  
& requiring care & much staying  
at home - Hooker has been  
very well looking much better  
than he did a year ago - I was  
very sorry to miss seeing S. Watson  
pray remember me kind<sup>ly</sup> to him

I hope to send you soon some  
Coulteriana

With affectionate best wishes to  
you & Mrs Gray

Ever kin<sup>dly</sup> yours

John Ball

I send a new kind of New Year  
Card - which is not a card

to Mrs